

In the Claims

1-9. (cancelled)

10. (new) A hydraulic accumulator, comprising:

an accumulator housing having at least one gas chamber and at least one fluid chamber therein, having a first free end, and having a longitudinal axis;

a separating element in said housing separating said gas chamber from said fluid chamber;

a valve block directly mounted in and closing said first free end of said housing and having a fluid path therein extending from an interior of said housing to an exterior thereof with a first part thereof extending from said fluid chamber parallel to and laterally offset relative to said longitudinal axis; and

a ball valve mounted in said valve block and movable between an open position allowing fluid flow through said fluid path and a closed position blocking fluid flow through said fluid path, said ball valve having a fluid passage therein extending perpendicular to said longitudinal axis in said open position and having a blocking part with a pivot axis laterally offset and parallel to said longitudinal axis, said blocking part being diametrically opposite said longitudinal axis.

11. (new) A hydraulic accumulator according to claim 10 wherein

said separating element is a piston.

12. (new) A hydraulic accumulator according to claim 10 wherein  
said fluid path comprises a second part including a screwed part extending transversely to  
said longitudinal axis and threaded into said valve block on an outer circumferential side thereof.
13. (new) A hydraulic accumulator according to claim 10 wherein  
said blocking part is coupled to a manual handle; and  
said valve block is between said handle and said housing.
14. (new) A hydraulic accumulator according to claim 13 wherein  
said handle has an actuating knob oriented in a direction opposite said fluid path through  
said screwed part in said open position of said ball valve.
15. (new) A hydraulic accumulator according to claim 10 wherein  
said valve block comprises a cylindrical extension with an externally threaded section  
threaded into said first free end of said housing, said extension widening radially outside of said  
housing to form a flange, said flange having an edge providing a stop surface for a front end of  
said housing.
16. (new) A hydraulic accumulator according to claim 15 wherein  
at least one seal is mounted on an outer circumferential side of said extension.

17. (new) A hydraulic accumulator according to claim 10 wherein

said fluid path comprises a second part extending transversely to said longitudinal axis between a junction with said first part and an outer circumferential side of said valve block, said ball valve being located on said fluid path adjacent said juncture.

18. (new) A hydraulic accumulator according to claim 17 wherein

said ball valve is located in said second part.

19. (new) A suspension system, comprising:

an accumulator housing having at least one gas chamber and at least one fluid chamber therein, having a first free end, and having a longitudinal axis;

a separating element in said housing separating said gas chamber from said fluid chamber;

a valve block directly mounted in and closing said first free end of said housing and having a fluid path therein extending from an interior of said housing to an exterior thereof with a first part thereof extending from said fluid chamber parallel to and laterally offset relative to said longitudinal axis;

a ball valve mounted in said valve block and movable between an open position allowing fluid flow through said fluid path and a closed position blocking fluid flow through said fluid path, said ball valve having a fluid passage therein extending perpendicular to said longitudinal axis in said open position and having a blocking part with a pivot axis laterally offset and parallel

to said longitudinal axis, said blocking part being diametrically opposite said longitudinal axis;  
and

a suspension accumulator connected to said fluid path such that in said open position of said ball valve said suspension accumulator is activated and in said closed position of said ball valve said suspension accumulator is blocked.